 was received from the State Government of Maharashtra in April, 2007 about the quality of imported wheat being distributed through PDS Joint samples drawn by the officers of FCI and State Governments from Food Storage Depots at Mumbai were found fit for human consumption on analysis in State Public Health Laboratory, Pune.

(b) The import of wheat has been done at internationally competitive price against global tenders.

(c) Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been rationalized for all States, including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh based on their offtake during 2003-04,2004-05 and 2005-06. Government of Madhya Pradesh has stated that monthly allocation of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families in case of Madhya Pradesh is lower as compared to similar large States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal. Government of Chhattisgarh has requested to retain the allocation of rice for APL at the level of 2006-07 for the State.

**Import of wheat**

843. SHRI MATIBRINDA KARAT:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imported during 2005-06, 2006-07 and during 2007-08, till December, 2007;

(b) the production of wheat in the country during the above period; and

(c) the procurement of wheat during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No wheat was imported by the Government during 2005-06. Out of orders placed for import of 55 lakh tons in 2006-07, a quantity of 53.79 lakh tons arrived in 2006-07 and 0.75 lakh tons in 2007-08. Further, orders have been placed for import of 17.985 lakh tons in 2007-08, of which 17.68 lakh tons have been received as on 4.3.2008.

(b) and (c) The production and procurement of wheat in the country in the above mentioned period is as under:

*(In lakh tonnes)*

| Crop Year | Marketing Year | Production | Procurement |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 693.5 | 92.3 |
| 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 758.1 | 111.3 |
| 2007-08(estimated) | 2008-09 | 748.1 | Yet to start |

**Diversion of foodgrains in Delhi**

844. SHR1 VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge stocks of foodgrains diverted by the fair price shops under the Public Distribution System in Delhi have recently been detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against fair price shop owners and the Government officials involved in this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A raid was conducted by the Food and Supply Department, Government of NCT of Delhi on 18.02.2008 at two godowns situated at Shop No. 3 & 4, F-Block Market, Dakshin Puri, Delhi and approximately 2175 bags of Specified Food Articles (SFAs) meant for TPDS were found lying in them.

(c) All the concerned FPSs and godowns were immediately sealed and subsequently licenses of II FPS have been suspended by the concerned Assistant Commissioner. An FIR was lodged with the police on 19.02.2008 and five persons have been arrested in the case.

**Malls and retail stores in the country**

t845. SHRI MATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of malls and big retail stores opened in the country during the last two years;

(b) the location of these malls and retail stores;

(c) whether small time shopkeepers have suffered due to opening of these malls and retail stores; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to ensure the livelihood of the small time shopkeepers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Organised retailers register their shops/malls with concerned authorities in States/UT Governments in respect of the commodities to be sold by them. The Central Government do not maintain data in this regard.

(c) and (d) The share of organized retailing in the total retail trade is very small. No studies have been carried out in the past to assess the impact of opening of malls and big retail stores on the small time shopkeepers. However, the Government has awarded a study to International

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.